

ELECTROSURGICAL APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR ABLATING TISSUE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Electrosurgical methods and apparatus for the controlled ablation of tissue from a target site of a patient. The instrument includes a shaft having proximal and distal end portion and an active screen electrode on the distal end portion; a return electrode arranged on the shaft spaced from the screen electrode; at least one electrical connector extending through the shaft that connects the active electrode with a high frequency power supply; at least one electrical coupling member (such as a ball wire) adapted to secure the active screen electrode to the shaft and to electrically couple the screen electrode to the at least one electrical connector; and an aspiration lumen within the shaft having a distal opening coupled to the single active electrode wherein the screen electrode inhibits clogging of the aspiration lumen.